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An Apparatus for Studying the Effect of Hertzian Waves on the Beating of the Heart

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An Apparatus for Studying the Effect of Hertzian Waves on the Beating of the Heart was Exhibited at the Meeting on March 9th by Prof. W. M. COLEMAN.

A SIMPLE pendulum, consisting of a cylindrical brass bob terminating in a pointed wire coaxial with the bob, hangs by a piece of string above one of the terminals of an induction coil, so that in its lowest position the point of the bob is within sparking distance of the terminal and vertically above it. The bob is connected by a piece of flexible wire to the other terminal of the coil. When the pendulum is set oscillating there is a shower of sparks every time the bob passes its lowest position The frequency of intermittence can be varied by altering the length of the suspension. By adjusting the period of the pendulum nearly to the time of a heart-beat any possible effect on the rate of the beating may be observed. Prof. Coleman stated it to be his experience that the heart beats tend to acquire the same rate as the sparking.

The condensed discharge from two Leyden jars is employed.